

Message Text

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45

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 EB-11 SCEM-02 SCI-06 INT-08 AEC-11 COME-00

OMB-01 TRSE-00 CEA-02 DRC-01 /145 W
----- 051333

R 091200Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5282

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L DUBLIN 0032

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENGR EI

SUBJ: IRISH REACTION TO SECRETARY'S PROPOSAL FOR ENERGY ACTION GP

1. PERMSEC HUGH MCCANN TOLD AMBASSADOR AND DCM THAT GOI HAD NOT YET FORMULATED A RESPONSE TO SECRETARY'S PROPOSAL ON ENERGY ACTION GROUP. WHILE DOING SO MCCANN WAS AT SOME PAINS TO EXPLAIN THE FRENCH ATTITUDE WHILE AT THE SAME TIME PROTESTING--TOO MUCH, WE SOMETIMES THOUGHT--THAT THIS WAS NOT ALSO THE IRISH ATTITUDE. HE POINTED OUT THAT IRELAND FORMS AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE UNITED KINGDOM'S PETROLEUM MARKET AND THEREFORE CAN HAVE VERY LITTLE EFFECT ON THE OUTCOME OF THE ENERGY CRISIS. IN ANY EVENT THE EC WAS IN THE PROCESS OF TRYING TO DEVELOP AN ENERGY POLICY AND ACCORDING TO MCCANN IT WOULD NOT BEHOOVE IRELAND, AS A GOOD MEMBER OF THE EC, TO STAKE OUT A POSITION ON THIS QUESTION WITHOUT FIRST CONSULTING HER EUROPEAN PARTNERS.

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2. WE OPINED THAT CONSIDERATION FOR OTHER EC MEMBERS HAD NOT APPARENTLY RESTRAINED THE FRENCH FROM ACTING UNILATERALLY TO SECURE THEIR OWN ENERGY INTERESTS. WE SAID UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES THE INDUSTRIALIZED WOULD WOULD BE BETTER OFF CONFRONTING THIS CRISIS IN CONCERT RATHER THAN WITH EACH TRYING TO STRIKE OUT ON HIS OWN. MCCANN AGREED, BUT WONDERED WHETHER THE PROBLEM COULD NOT BE DEALT WITH THROUGH EXISTING ORGANIZATIONS, SPECIFICALLY THE OECD. HE SAID THAT THE IRISH GENERALLY PREFERRED TO USE MECHANISMS ALREADY IN EXISTENCE IF THEY COULD BE RETOOLED TO DO THE JOB.

3. FROM THIS AND EARLIER CONVERSATIONS WITH PAUL KEATING, FONOFF DEPUTY SECRETARY AND EC POLITICAL DIRECTOR, WE CONCLUDE THAT THE ABSENCE OF ANY CONCRETE IRISH POSITION REALLY INDICATES A PAUCITY OF THOUGHTABOUT THE ENERGY QUESTION. IN REVIEWING THE IMPACT OF THE OIL CRISIS GENERALLY, AND ESPECIALLY THE EFFECT ON IRELAND'S BALANCE OF PAYMENTS OF RECENT OIL PRICE INCREASES, WE HAVE FOUND FONOFF PEOPLE TO BE EITHER APPALLINGLY UNINFORMED OR NAIVE OR BOTH. BOTH KEATING AND MCCANN DEALT WITH THE ECONOMICS OF THE QUESTION AS IF THEY WERE TALKING ABOUT A BANK OVERDRAFT THAT NEED NOT BE WORRIED ABOUT AND IN ANY EVENT WOULD NEVER BE BALANCED.
MOORE

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NNN

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